Applicant requests that the above amendments be entered before the examiner takes the case up for further examination. Applicant believes that the amendments will assist in clarifying the invention and will aid the skilled reader in understanding the invention. The amendments for paragraph 4, line 4 rewrite the first sentence of that paragraph into the active voice and thereby clarifies that it is the demultiplexer that separates program 1 from the MPTS and loads program 1 into the logical smoothing buffer. The previous version of this paragraph departed from the original wording by stating that the SPTS (CBR) is input to the logical smoothing buffer <u>for output for decoding</u> at the desired constant bit rate. The current version of this paragraph restores the original meaning by stating that the separated program (program 1 in the example) is loaded into the logical smoothing buffer at the constant bit rate. Since the smoothing buffer 4 is separate from the system target decoder, the paragraph has been further amended to state that the buffer outputs program 1 to produce a SPTS (CBR).

The amendments that are presented for the paragraph starting at page 6, line 11, elaborate on the original wording and clarify, for example, that frame 1 is not loaded instantaneously at time δ before DTS_1 but begins loading at that time and continues loading for a period R_n*Q_1.

In a practical implementation of the invention, the logical smoothing buffer is part of the conventional assembly buffer that reassembles the MPEG packets for transmission to the system target decoder in the SPTS. The manner of operation of the assembly buffer results in the packets being loaded into the smoothing buffer at a constant bit rate, such that each bit has a time associated with it and the times associated with the respective bits are equally spaced.

The new claim 10 is clearly readable on the manner of operation described with reference to FIG. 3. Applicant submits

that claim 10 is patentable over the prior art for the reasons
discussed in the reply that was filed on September 15, 2005.
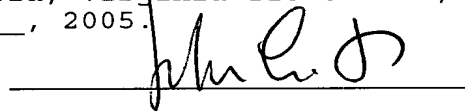
Respectfully submitted,

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_____14th_____ day of _November_, 2005.

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Applicant proposes to amend the drawings by adding the accompanying new FIG. 4. The proposed new FIG. 4 illustrates schematically the demultiplexer and the system target decoder. Applicant believes that the proposed new FIG. 4 does not introduce any new matter and that it provides a helpful framework for the detailed description, particularly the paragraph starting at page 4, line 4. The proposed FIG. 4 emphasizes, as pointed out by the examiner, that the logical smoothing buffer is distinct from the system target decoder.